(b) what are the names of the places where the authorities conducted raids during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The Income-tax Department conducted 3545 searches in various parts of the country during the period January, 1988 to June, 1988. These resulted in the seizure of prima-facie unaccounted assets worth approximately Rs. 85 crores, 26 lakhs, 58 thousand. During the course of these searches, the persons searched, in their statements recorded, admitted concealment of income to the tune of Rs. 119 crores, 50 lakhs 75 thousand. Actual tax recovery from all the evaders is much more than the amount seized at the time of the search.

(b) As searches were conducted at various places throughout the country, it is not practicable to furnish the names of the places of search.

Sharing of Excise Leavy on Electricity

803. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints were received from Maharashtra Government during the last two years in connection with inadequate sharing of excise levied by the Central Government on electricity generation: and

(b) whether any final settlement has been reached and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) The Chief Minister of Maharashtra had addressed the Union Finance Minister stating that an amount of Rs. 162.00 crores was collected in the State by way of excise duty on electricity generation during the period 1979-80 to 1984-85 (upto 30th September, 1984), whereas an amount of Rs. 131.67 crores was refunded by the Government of India and that the balance amount of Rs. 30.51 crores may be refunded to the State Government.

(b) Refund of excise duty on electricity generation has been made during 1979-80 to 1984-85 (upto 30th September, 1984) in accordance with the percentage shares prescribed in the Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Act, 1980. Accordingly, the share of Maharashtra worked out to Rs. 131.57 crores. This has been refunded to the State Government on provisional basis subject to final adjustment on the basis of certified figures of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Since the refund of net proceeds of excise duty has been made in accordance with the provisions of Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distributon Act, 1980 and the Rules made thereunder, it was not possible to re-open the share already paid to the State Government.

External and Internal Debts

804. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 295 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 1988 and state:

(a) whether any improvement has been effected in reducing external and internal debts of Government; and

(b) whether the recent aid by the World Bank and by the Aid India Consortium will help to fill up the resources gap for projects to be undertaken during the remaining period of the Seventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Debt position of the Government is kept under constant review and within manageable limits.

Subjects to these limits, it is not considered necessary at present to reduce absolute level of debt as that would constitute a reverse flow of resources and affect the implementation of development projects.

(b) As per our Plan priorities, the commitments made at the Aid India Consortium will help finance projects during the remaining part of the current year.

Income-Tax raids on jewellers in Ahmedabad

805. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Income-tax authorities recently conducted raids at the business premises of a renowned Ahmedabad jewellers in Ahmedabad, Gandhi Nagar, Bombay and Calcutta as reported in the New Delhi edition of 'Hindu' of 15 June, 1988;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of each jewellery and other incriminating documents recovered during these raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) The Income-Tax Department conducted searches on 6-5-1988 in Ahmedabad and Bombay at the premises of two concerns of jewellers dealing in gold ornaments, silver and diamonds. The searches resulted in the seizure of prima-facie unaccounted assets worth approximately Rs. 116.73 lakhs and several incriminating documents and books of accounts indicating tax evasion. The break-up of the seizure is as under:

	Rs.
Cash	74,050
Bullion	87,109
Jewellery	1,15,11,944
TOTAL :	1,16,73,103

The persons searched, in their statements during the course of searches, admitted concealment of income to the tune of Rs. 144.20 lakhs.

Kolleru Lake

806. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kolleru Lake, which is considered to be India's largest fresh water lake, had lost much of its traditional importance as a great bird haven and fishermen's paradise due to unchecked human activity in its neighbourhood and whether a demand is being made for declaring the Lake as a waterway of national importance by preserving and upgrading the lake from the ecological, economic and aesthetic point of view; and

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) It is a fact that Kolleru Lake is facing problems of pollution, siltation, encroachment etc. due to which fishery has been affected and its importance as a bird sanctuary has also declined. Thus there is need for conservation of this ecosystem.